A resolution to approve an authorized use of American Rescue Plan fiscal recovery funding and to appropriate from unappropriated funds from the County ARP fiscal recovery fund, #2876, for a broadband infrastructure purpose, pledging support to broadband providers participating in the State of Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Program and benefitting Fairfield County residents when certain criteria are met.

WHEREAS, Fairfield County has received direct payments from the U.S. Treasury under the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Funds authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act, referred to as fiscal recovery funds;

WHEREAS, Fairfield County will use the funding in accordance with the American Rescue Plan Act and guidance from the U.S. Treasury;

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2021, Fairfield County set up a special revenue fund to receive the funds and account for the use of the funds (with special revenue fund #2876);

WHEREAS, ARP fiscal recovery funds are permitted to be used for broadband infrastructure projects in certain conditions;

WHEREAS, the Economic and Workforce Development Department conducted a study through Connect Ohio that showed a need for increased broadband availability in Fairfield County and has received complaints from households regarding a lack of broadband service; such need was exacerbated by the requirements for remote work and school due to the pandemic;

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio has created a Residential Broadband Expansion Program Grant with a 2021 application cycle to increase the number of households in the state that receive acceptable internet speeds through broadband service;

WHEREAS, Fairfield County wishes to support the efforts of a broadband provider (or providers) who is (are) awarded a Grant from Ohio’s Broadband Expansion Program Authority in response to its 2021 application cycle for a project in Fairfield County;
A resolution to approve an authorized use of American Rescue Plan fiscal recovery funding and to appropriate from unappropriated funds from the County ARP fiscal recovery fund, #2876, for a broadband infrastructure purpose, pledging support to broadband providers participating in the State of Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Program and benefitting Fairfield County residents when certain criteria are met.

WHEREAS, Fairfield County desires to pledges and contribute an amount up to $500,000 to the broadband provider or providers awarded Residential Broadband Expansion Program Grant(s) for Fairfield County so long as all the following conditions are satisfied:

1. The winning project is intended to allow internet access to at least 1,600 residences located in Fairfield County;
2. The winning project will allow internet access with a minimum speed of 100 megabits per second (Mbps) downstream;
3. The project’s total cost is at least $8 million;
4. The winning broadband provider sought financial support in advance from Fairfield County;
5. The funds awarded to Fairfield County under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 can lawfully be used for the support contemplated by this resolution; and
6. If multiple projects are awarded in Fairfield County, then Fairfield County’s commitment could be spread across multiple projects on a per household basis as long as all other requirements are met.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD, STATE OF OHIO, THAT:

Section 1. The Board of County Commissioners approves the use of ARP fiscal recovery funds for a broadband infrastructure purpose, pledging support to broadband providers participating in the State of Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Program and benefitting Fairfield County residents when certain criteria are met. The authorized use is for contracted services for broadband infrastructure to operate as matching funds of up to $500,000 so long as the broadband provider or providers is (are) awarded a State of Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Program Grant for Fairfield County and all the following conditions are satisfied:
A resolution to approve an authorized use of American Rescue Plan fiscal recovery funding and to appropriate from unappropriated funds from the County ARP fiscal recovery fund, #2876, for a broadband infrastructure purpose, pledging support to broadband providers participating in the State of Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Program and benefitting Fairfield County residents when certain criteria are met.

1. The winning project is intended to allow internet access to at least 1,600 residences located in Fairfield County;
2. The winning project will allow internet access with a minimum speed of 100 megabits per second (Mbps) downstream;
3. The project’s total cost is at least $8 million;
4. The winning broadband provider sought financial support in advance from Fairfield County;
5. The funds awarded to Fairfield County under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 can lawfully be used for the support contemplated by this resolution; and
6. If multiple projects are awarded in Fairfield County, then Fairfield County’s commitment could be spread across multiple projects on a per household basis as long as all other requirements are met.

Section 2. The Board of County Commissioners requests the County Auditor approve appropriations from unappropriated funds for fund #2876, as follows in the major category of contractual services:

$ 500,000 Contractual Services for 12287600

Section 3. The Economic and Workforce Development Director will communicate with broadband providers and share this resolution as documentation of support for State of Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Program Grant applications and work with providers if and when grants are awarded for households in Fairfield County. The Economic and Workforce Development Director will also develop documentation, monitoring, oversight, and reporting procedures for contracting, as additional resolutions will document the agreement or agreements between the provider or providers and Fairfield County, once more information is available.
A resolution to approve an authorized use of American Rescue Plan fiscal recovery funding and to appropriate from unappropriated funds from the County ARP fiscal recovery fund, #2876, for a broadband infrastructure purpose, pledging support to broadband providers participating in the State of Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Program and benefitting Fairfield County residents when certain criteria are met.

For County Auditor Use Only:

Section 2. Update the following appropriations:

$500,000 12287600 530000 R516a Contractual Services
Resolution No.

A resolution to approve an authorized use of American Rescue Plan fiscal recovery funding and appropriate from unappropriated funds for the County ARP fiscal recovery fund, #2876, for a response to the public health emergency with respect to COVID19 or its negative economic impacts to pledge support for grant applications to broadband providers who are expanding the fiber network to homes in Fairfield County to provide more residents with faster internet service.

(Fairfield County Economic & Workforce Development)

Approved as to form on 10/29/2021 2:17:05 PM by Joshua Horacek,

Joshua Horacek
Prosecutor's Office
Fairfield County, Ohio